

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9873

UNCLAS MEXICO 0893

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY - ATLANTA

1. AT SUGGESTION ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH I MADE OVERNIGHT STOP IN ATLANTA ENROUTE HERE. VISIT SERVED DEMONSTRATE DEPARTMENT'S CONTINUED INTEREST IN ATLANTA'S EFFORTS TO PREPARE FOR OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON APRIL 19 AND WAS VERY WELL RECEIVED BY ADELANTE ATLANTA COMMITTEE AND STATE OFFICIALS AND BY MEDIA. IN ADDITION TO VIDEOTAPING FOUR SEPARATE PROGRAMS, HELD BRIEFING SESSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMITTEE ALONG WITH EDITORS OF PRINCIPAL NEWSPAPERS, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, FOREIGN POLICY GROUPS, "INNER-CITY" WORKERS, ETC. WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY MEMBERS OF GOVERNOR'S STAFF DURING MY STAY IN ATLANTA AND HAD BRIEF BUT VERY CORDIAL VISIT WITH GOVERNOR CARTER ON FOLLOWING MORNING.

2. FOLLOWING ARE SPECIFIC POINTS:

A. THERE IS CONTINUED ENTHUSIASM IN ATLANTA FOR UPCOMING ASSEMBLY BUT INCREASED CONCERN AT MAGNITUDE OF TASK. FOR AWHILE THE ATLANTANS APPARENTLY FELT THEY WERE NOT GETTING FULL COOPERATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND THE OAS. THIS WAS DUE IN PART TO CONFLICTING INTERPRETATIONS AS WELL AS BY FREQUENTLY CHANGING PERSONNEL IN OIC. ATLANTANS WERE REASSURED, HOWEVER, BY THEIR MOST RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH SEIDNER AND NOW SEEM MORE SERENE.

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B. THE ATLANTA AUTHORITIES ARE CONCERNED LEST THE MEXICO

CITY MFM STEAL ALL THUNDER FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, LEAVING ONLY ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS FOR ATLANTA. I STRESSED TO THEM THAT MANY OF THE MATTERS DEALT WITH AT MEXICO CITY MIGHT RECEIVE A SECOND STAGE OF CONSIDERATION OR PERHAPS OFFICIAL APPROVAL AT ATLANTA. IT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE IN INTEREST NOT ONLY OF ATLANTA BUT OF UNITED STATES IF OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY COULD PRODUCE SOME "DECLARATION" OR "RESOLUTION OF ALTANTA." SUCH HAD BEEN OBJECTIVE OF OTHER HOST COUNTRIES AT PAST MEETINGS AND WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED SELF-SERVING ON OUR PART.

C. THERE IS SOME CONCERN THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS SO FAR MADE NO PUBLIC REFERENCE TO ALTANTA AND FEAR THAT HE MIGHT EVEN NOT BE ABLE ATTEND MEETING. I REASSURED THEM OF SECRETARY'S INTEREST BUT EXPLAINED THAT IT HAD BEEN PREMAUTRE FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS.

3. ATLANTANS EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE MAILLIARD AND I WAS ABLE TO GIVE THEM HIS PERSONAL MESSAGE OF INTEREST AND DESIRE TO COOPERATE. THEY CONTEMPLATE INVITING HIM TO VISIT ATLANTA WELL BEFORE THE OASGA AND I RECOMMEND THAT AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD ACCEPT IF THIS IS CONVENIENT TO HIM. PETER WHITE OF ADELANTA ATLANTA COMMITTEE WOULD BE APPROPRIATE CONTACT POINT AND WOULD SET UP SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT WITH APPROPRIATE GROUPS AS PEG FOR VISIT.

4. ACTION RECOMMENDED: A. SUGGEST THAT AT AN APPROPRIATE EARLY MOMENT SECRETARY SEND MESSAGE TO GOVERNOR CARTER AND THE ADELANTE ALTANTA COMMITTEE EXPRESSING HIS SUPPORT FOR EFFORT THEIR CITY IS MAKING IN PREPARING FOR MEETING.

B. REQUEST THAT PARA 3 BE TRANSMITTED TO AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE MAILLIARD.
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